

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 27, 29, 51 and 53 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) Blending apparatus for a high speed blending operation comprising a container base and a container lid, the container lid having mounted thereon blending means arranged for a high speed rotation, the blending means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a blending element for blending contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the blending means comprising a shaft portion locatable through an opening in the lid and incorporating the connection means, and a blending element portion associated with the shaft portion for rotation therewith, the container lid comprising a rim portion defining a circumferential slot into which the top edge of the container is located when the lid and container are assembled together, wherein the rim portion is formed with successive, oppositely directed circumferential portions, a first of said portions lying in contact with or closely adjacent an inner side wall of the container when the lid and container are assembled together, and defining one side of the slot, ~~and wherein an outwardly convex portion is formed on the lid within the rim portion, the convex portion including the opening through which the blending means is located, wherein the blending element includes blades arranged for operation and positioned entirely within the outwardly convex portion of the lid, and wherein the slot includes is defined by an outer portion arranged to extend around a top outer edge of the container and an inner portion arranged to extend into the container, wherein the inner portion extends over a greater distance~~

than the outer portion in the axial direction of the container, such distance being between two and twelve times the distance of the outer portion and wherein the lid has a part-spherical central portion in the middle of which is the opening for the blending means, the outer edge of the part-spherical central portion being turned through approximately 180° to form said first circumferential portion, and wherein the upper end of the central portion lies substantially level with the upper end of the container in use, and wherein the region in which the blending element operates has curved surfaces.

26. (Currently Amended) Blending apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex part-spherical central portion is of curvilinear dome shape ~~and the blending means is located centrally thereof.~~

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) Blending apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex part-spherical central portion projects above the upper edge of the container, when the lid is assembled on the open end of the container.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) Blending apparatus according to claim 25 wherein container lids assembled with the blending means are arranged to be nestable or stackable with other container lids, when not assembled with the container bases, one container lid being located inside another.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) Blending apparatus according to claim 32 wherein the inner portion extends between two and twelve times the distance of the outer portion.

35-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) Blending apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the container lid includes a product access opening with closure means, the access opening being for accessing the contents of the container after blending.

44-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A container lid for mounting on an open ended beverage container, the container lid having located thereon blending means arranged for high speed rotation, the blending means extending through an opening in the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a blending element for high speed blending of contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the container lid comprising a rim portion defining a circumferential slot into which the top edge of a container is located when the lid and container are assembled together, wherein the rim portion is formed with successive oppositely directed circumferential portions, a first of said portions lying in contact with or closely adjacent an inner side wall of the container when the lid and container are assembled together, and defining one side of the slot, ~~wherein the lid includes an outwardly convex portion formed within the rim portion, the convex portion including the opening through which the blending means extends, wherein the blending element includes blades arranged for operation and positioned entirely within the outwardly convex portion of the lid; and wherein the slot includes is defined by an outer portion arranged to extend around a top outer edge of the container and an inner portion arranged to extend into the container, wherein the inner portion extends over a greater distance than the outer portion in the axial direction of the container, such distance being between two and twelve times the distance of the outer portion and wherein the lid has a part-spherical central portion in the middle of which is the opening for the blending means, the outer edge of the part-spherical central portion being turned through~~

approximately 180° to form said first circumferential portion, and wherein the upper end of the central portion lies substantially level with the upper end of the container in use, and wherein the region in which the blending element operates has curved surfaces.

50. (Currently Amended) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the ~~outwardly convex part-spherical central~~ portion is of a curvilinear dome shape ~~and the blending means is located centrally thereof.~~

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the ~~outwardly convex part-spherical central~~ portion projects above the upper edge of the container, when the lid is assembled on the open end of the container.

53-55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the lid includes a product access opening with closure means, the access opening being for accessing the contents of the container after blending.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the rim includes slits extending in a generally axial direction.

59-75. (Canceled)

76. (Previously Presented) Blending apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the lid includes an upper portion having an annular gap, the lid further including an annular lower portion which is intended to locate in the annular gap of a lid of the same kind and configuration when two or more of said lids assembled with their respective blending means are stacked one on top of another.

77-81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently Amended) A container lid for mounting on an open ended beverage container, the container lid comprising:

mixing means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive motor is operated; and

a rim portion defining a circumferential slot into which the top edge of the container is located when the lid and container are assembled, wherein the rim portion is formed with successive, oppositely directed circumferential portions, a first of said portions lying in contact with or closely adjacent the inner side wall of the container when the lid and container are assembled together, and defining one side of the slot, and wherein the slot includes an outer portion arranged to extend around the top outer edge of the container, and an inner portion arranged to extend into the container, ~~wherein the inner portion extends over a greater distance than the outer portion in the axial direction of the container, such distance being between two and twelve times the distance of the outer portion~~ and wherein the lid has a part-spherical central portion in the middle of which is the opening for the mixing means, the outer edge of the part-spherical central portion being turned through approximately 180° to form said first circumferential portion, and wherein the upper end of the central portion lies substantially level with the upper end of the container in use, and wherein the region in which the mixing element operates has curved surfaces.

83. (Previously Presented) Blending apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a second of said circumferential portions forms part of the convex portion of the lid, and wherein the lid includes an upper portion having an annular gap, the lid further including an annular lower

portion which is intended to locate in the annular gap of a lid of the same kind and configuration when two or more of said lids assembled with their respective blending means are stacked one on top of another, the circumferential portions defining said annular gap and said annular lower portion.

84. (Previously Presented) A container lid according to claim 49, wherein a second of said circumferential portions forms part of the convex portion of the lid, and wherein the lid includes an upper portion having an annular gap, the lid further including an annular lower portion which is intended to locate in the annular gap of a lid of the same kind and configuration when two or more of said lids assembled with their respective blending means are stacked one on top of another, the circumferential portions defining said annular gap and said annular lower portion.

85. (Previously Presented) Blending apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the product access opening is formed in said outwardly convex portion.

86. (Previously Presented) A container lid according to claim 56, wherein the product access opening is formed in said outwardly convex portion.